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NO. 52.—WHOLE NO. 104.

[By request]

VAN BUREN CIRCULAR.
CARROLLTON, CARROLL COUNTY, OHIO.
June 2d, A. D. 1836.

DEAR SIR:

Public rumor says, that Martin Van Buren is a Roman Catholic, which report is true, ought, and will be a sufficient justification, for all those who wish their country well to abandon him. But this report appears to have originated from a letter written by Van Buren to the United States Consul at Rome, although nothing appears on the face of the letter to justify any person in that belief. Yet it appears necessary that something should be done, or some inquiry should be had further than merely the face of that letter, before we even condemn or justify.

You will therefore inform me, what gave rise to that letter, whether it was on business of the government, or even a letter of congratulation to his Holiness, on his accession to the throne in the name of the government.

I am yours, with
great respect and esteem.

JAMES THOMPSON.
Hon. JOHN THOMPSON,
Washington City,
House Representatives.

NEW LISBON, August 1st, 1836.

DEAR SIR:

I received your letter of the 2d, of June some time before I left Washington city, but had not time, owing to the pressure of public business, to prepare, & send a suitable answer.

In your letter you enquire what gave rise to the letter of Mr. Van Buren, to the Pope, while he was Secretary of State of the United States, whether it was merely to congratulate him, or on business of the government; and in which you request of me a fair statement of the matter.

For the purpose of answering your enquiries I have taken pains to ascertain the true history of this affair.

I find that the letter to which you allude, was not addressed to the Pope, but to the American Consul at Rome, and was called out by an official letter addressed to Mr. Van Buren as Secretary of State, by the American Consul, written soon after the election of the present Pope and dated the 8th of May, 1829.

I have in my possession a copy of this communication, from the State Department which I will enclose to you for your perusal, and if you deem it of sufficient importance, for publication.

Now it is well known, that the Pope is a political Sovereign as well as a church dignitary, and that it is in the first of these capacities only, that our government has any official relations with him.

In this respect he is to be regarded in precisely the same light as any other European sovereign, and it accordingly becomes the duty of our government, to reply to the communications of the Consul.

This reply was made by Mr. Van Buren by direction of the President (to whom the Consul's letter was duly submitted;) and when it is recollected, that our government has always been in the habit, when a change occurs in the head of a nation with which it has official intercourse, to congratulate the new Sovereign, on his accession, I think no candid person will object either to the fact or the language of the letter.

I am, Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN THOMPSON,
Col. James Thompson,
Carrollton, Ohio.

Extract of a letter from Felix Cicognani,
Esq., U. S. Consul Rome Secretary of
State, dated May 8th, 1829.

"Yesterday I had the honor to have a particular audience from His Holiness, in my official capacity of Consul of the U. S. of America in Rome, and am happy to inform you that the anticipations I expressed in my letter of the 11th of April last to you proved entirely correct. His Holiness received me in the most benign manner and expressed the most favorable sentiments for the Government as well as for the Nation of the United States of America. He said that he was more favorably inclined to the U. S. of America, because the Catholic people there enjoy the same protection as the other citizens of a different creed, and have no disabilities according to the law. His Holiness desired me particularly and repeatedly to assure, in his name, the Government of the United States that he will never interfere in Politics, and that in any case of misintelligence between the Governments, he will do all in his power to lead them to peace. He requested also that I should express his wish that the citizens of the U. S. professing the Catholic Religion may in future meet with the same protection they have found to this time.

After the audience from His Holiness I went, as it is customary, to pay my respects to Cardinal Albani, the Secretary of State, who received me very kindly, and expressed the most friendly sentiments towards the citizens and the Government of the U. S. of America. The manner in which I was received by His Holiness, and by the Cardinal, Secretary of State, and the sentiments expressed by them both, will, I am sure, afford gratification to His Excellency the President and to yourself, and I should feel highly honored if I could make me interpreter

of the sentiments that you might think proper to reciprocate with those expressed by His Holiness."

RELIGIOUS TEST.

When Mr. Jefferson was a candidate for Chief Magistrate of the United States, an attempt was made by his bitterest political opponents to proscriber him, by representing him as a deist. This, it was thought, would excite the different religious sects against him, and produce such a revolution in public sentiment as to defeat his election. But all these exertions of his enemies failed of their desired object, although they had contrived, in some instances, to convert the sacred pulpit into a political rostrum against him. His honesty and integrity raised him to the elevated station to which he aspired, and his machinating enemies dwindled into insignificance before the popular feeling.

As with Mr. Jefferson, so with Mr. Van Buren. Some of the opponents of the latter have endeavored to excite various religious denominations against him by representing him as being a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The motive for such representations must easily be seen by Catholics as well as all other denominations of Christian, for it is nothing more nor less than an attempt to defeat his election to the presidency, as in the case of Mr. Jefferson. In order to show that this is the design of Mr. Van Buren's enemies we publish the following letters from Hon. Aaron Vanderpoel, member of the House of Representatives of the U. S. from the district in which Mr. Van Buren was born. The letter is in answer to one from the Hon. Zadock Casey, member from Illinois; in which Mr. Casey made the enquiries therein answered.

For ourselves, we do not support or condemn a man for office on account of his religious opinions; we leave him to settle that matter with his creator. We require Mr. Jefferson's test—"Is he honest, is he capable, is he faithful to the constitution?"—Ohio Patriot.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 20th July, 1836.
Felix Cicognani Consul of the U. States at Rome.

SIR—Your letters of the 11th of April, and the 1st of May, the first anticipating the favorable sentiments of his Holiness the Pope, towards the government of the United States, and last, confirming your anticipations, have been received at this department and submitted to the President, by whom I am directed to convey to his Holiness, through the same channel, an assurance of the satisfaction which he derives from this communication, of the frank and liberal opinions entertained by the Apostolic See towards this Government and the people, and of the policy which you like wise state his holiness has adopted, and which is so worthy of the head of a great and Christian Church, as assiduously to cultivate, in his intercourse with foreign nations, the relations of amity and good will, sedulously to abstain from all interference in their occasional differences with each other, except with the benign view of effecting reconciliations between them.

You will accordingly seek an early opportunity to make known to the Pope, in the terms and manner better suited to the occasion, the light in which the President views the communication referred to, and likewise you will assure him that the President reciprocates to their full extent and spirit, the friendly and liberal sentiments entertained by his holiness towards the Government and the people of the United States, by those which he entertains towards the Apostolic See, and the people of the States of the Church; and it is the President's wish that you should, on the same occasion, offer his congratulations to the Holy Father, upon his recent succession to the Tiara, not from any hereditary claim on his part, but the preponderant influence which a just estimate of his talents and virtues had upon the enlightened councils by which that high distinction was conferred, and which afford the best pledge that his pontificate will be a wise and beneficent one.

You will take care, likewise, to assure his Holiness, in reference to the paternal solicitude which he expresses in behalf of the Roman Catholics in the United States, that all our citizens professing that religion stand upon the same elevated ground which citizens of all other religious denominations occupy, in regard to the rights of conscience, that of perfect liberty, contra distinguished from toleration; that they enjoy an entire exemption from coercion in every possible shape,

upon the score of religious faith, and they are free, in common with their fellow citizens of all other sects, to adhere to or to adopt the creeds, and practice the worship, best adapted to their reason or prejudices, & that there exists a perfect unity of faith in the United States among religionists of all professions, as to the wisdom and policy of that cardinal feature of all our constitutions and forms of government those of the United States and the separate states of the Union, by which this inestimable right is formally recognized, and the enjoyment of it inviolably secured.

I have given directions for the transmission to you of the acts of Congress which you request, by the earliest convenient opportunity.

In the mean time, I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON CITY, HOUSE OF REP.'s.
9th April, 1836.

SIR. I have just received your letter of this date requesting me to state, for the information of certain citizens of Illinois, whether Mr. Van Buren is, or has been, a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Agreeing with you in the great principle to which you refer, as well as also in the belief that there can, notwithstanding be no valid objections to have the fact upon the point to which your inquiry relates truly stated, I cheerfully comply with your request.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Van Buren and his family from my earliest recollection. I was born in, and now reside in Kinderhook, which is the native town of both of us. He is not, and never has been, a Roman Catholic. That there may no longer be any excuse for the further circulation of the statements which have already been so extensively and industriously spread upon this subject, I have thought proper, in fulfillment of your wishes, to obtain his authority for this declaration.

Mr. Van Buren was bred in the religious principles of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, whose tenets are similar to those of the old Presbyterian churches. Whilst he resided in Kinderhook, this was the only church in the village; his parents attended it, and he was baptised in it; and until his removal to the city of Hudson, and Mrs. Van Buren becoming a member of the Presbyterian church at that place, he attended with his family, until, her death, a church of that denomination, first at Hudson, and afterwards at Albany, under the care of the late Dr. John Chester. Since the death of Dr. Chester, which occurred, I think, in the beginning of 1829, he has been a pew-holder in the church, and has usually attended; when in Albany, on the ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Welsh of the Baptist church, a selection, which, I presume, may be ascribed to personal friendship, and to the high character of that distinguished clergyman for ability and eloquence.

It is due to Mr. Van Buren to add that he is no sectarian, and that he uniformly has been and is a decided advocate of freedom of conscience, and of the equal rights of all persons to participate in the privileges and blessings secured by our constitution.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
AARON VANDERPOEL.
Hon. ZADOCK CASEY.

When we take a proper view of this matter, we find, the Pope to be not only a Priest but a King, who has all power in political affairs in Italy. He has his officers of State, clothed with the same authority as that of any other nation to regulate trade and commerce. And as his influence extends over many States in Europe and Asia, and as our trade is very extensive in his dominions, it was not only the privilege but the imperative duty of Martin Van Buren when holding the pen of this nation, to congratulate him on his accession to the Throne, according to the custom of all nations with whom we have intercourse.

As the word (Holy Father) is very offensive to some of our nice folks, it may not be amiss to observe, that when we interchange sentiments of friendship, or of business with any Government we use the same language, and call them by the same names, that their own people call them by at home. This is not only the case with foreign nations, but it is the case even among ourselves.

Martin Van Buren's voting, in the N. York Convention to extend the right of suffrage, to the poor white man and excluding the black man, from the same privilege without a freehold estate, confirmed.

MR. VAN BUREN—THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.

The last New Lisbon Palladium entertains its readers with the following false statement in regard to Mr. Van Buren: "And he [Mr. V. B.] was a member of the New York Convention to revise the State constitution.—He was: and there voted against extending the privilege of voting to the poor white man, and in favor of extending that privilege to mulattoes!" It is bad enough for the whip press to misrepresent the opinions and acts of the

democratic candidate for the presidency, but to go so far in their misrepresentations as to place Mr. Van Buren in direct opposition to the course actually pursued by him, and to attribute to him the views and opinions upon which their own party acted, is too bad. This is the case with the Palladium's remarks in relation to that right to the blacks, as a brief view of the Convention will show.

The constitution of New York which this Convention was called to amend, gave the right of voting to "every male inhabitant possessing a freehold of twenty pounds." It was, principally, the abolishment of this freehold qualification which gave rise to the Convention of 1821. That Convention was composed of some of the most distinguished citizens of the State, federalists as well as democrats. The severest contest was on this freehold qualification. Mr. Van Buren was one of the champions for its abolition, while Chancellor Kent, (who stood at the head of the Clay Electoral ticket in 1832) as well as the other federal members, were his stern and unbending opponents. The federalists contested every inch of ground for the preservation of the freehold qualification; but the eloquence of Mr. Van Buren triumphed over their aristocratic notions, and the right of suffrage was extended.

A committee of the Convention having made a report that "six months residence in the State, and he having paid taxes, or worked on the highways, or done military duty," should be the qualifications of an elector—Chief Justice Spencer (a distinguished federal member), moved to amend the report by requiring a freehold qualification of two hundred and fifty dollars. On this amendment Mr. Van Buren made the following remark, which may be found at page 465 in the Debates of the New York Convention.

"If I could possibly believe" added Mr. Van Buren "that any portion of the calamitous consequences could result from the rejection of the gentleman's (Judge Spencer's) amendment which the honorable gentleman from Albany (Chancellor Kent) has so feelingly portrayed, I would be the last man in society who would vote for it. But believing as I conscientiously do, that those fears are altogether unfounded, hoping and expecting that the happiest results will follow from the abolition of the freehold qualification; and knowing besides that this State in abolishing the freehold qualification, will be but uniting herself in the march of principle, which has already prevailed in every State in the Union, except two or three, I shall cheerfully record my vote against the amendment."

His vote was then recorded against the freehold qualification, and the amendment of Judge Spencer was rejected.

So much for the charge that Mr. Van Buren "voted against extending the privilege of voting to the poor white man."

Now for the charge that he voted in favor of "extending that privilege to mulattoes."

The federal members, being unable to resist the overpowering sentiment of the majority, in favor of the "poor white man," changed their plan of operation, and with a view to procure the rejection of the constitution by the people, offered and advocated an amendment to extend the right of suffrage to the colored population, although such population were not compelled to perform the duties of citizens in time of war: and although they, the federalists, had just voted AGAINST extending it to white independent freemen!! This amendment was resisted by Mr. Van Buren, as well as the democratic members generally, and with the same success which had attended their former efforts. When it was under consideration, Mr. V. B. expressed himself in the following language:

"We had already reached the verge of universal suffrage. There was but one step beyond, and did gentlemen propose to take that step? We were cheapening this invaluable right. He was disposed to go as far as any other man in the extension of rational liberty; but he would not consent to undervalue this precious privilege so far as to confer it with indiscriminating hand upon every one, BLACK or white, who would be kind enough to condescend to accept it."

The federalists were now discomfited and routed "horse, foot and dragoon," by the rejection of their black amendment. The democrats afterwards had the proud satisfaction of receiving the approbation of the people, by their acceptance of the new constitution.

What will the federal members of the Convention think of their ally in New Lisbon, for giving them credit for that which they never performed, and for censuring the course actually pursued by them in such unmeasured terms? They must either view it as

proceeding from ignorance of their true course, or from a propensity to practice deception upon the people. We ask the Palladium to be fair for once, and "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's."

LATEST FROM TEXAS.

From the New Orleans Advertiser, Aug. 11.

TEXAS.—By the arrival of the schooner Fanny Butler, yesterday, in four days from Galveston, we have ascertained that no account had reached there (previous to the sailing of the F. B.) of the prize said to have been taken by Texian armed schooner Brutus; much less had her arrival been witnessed in the bay! The report originated with the officer who boarded the brig, in quest of provisions, and must have been made in bravado, as little or no specie has been shipped in Mexican vessels since the commencement of the Texian war.

It appears that all the Mexican officers (prisoners) at Galveston were about to be removed to Anawhan, on the Trinity; the privates to remain at Galveston. Gen. Cos is reported to have become quite a favorite with the army and people, being treated in the most courteous manner by both. He states, in palliation of former conduct, that he was intent on keeping his promise inviolate, as far as pledged; but that the Texans, instead of guarding the Constitution of '24, and battling for its privileges, declared an entire independence. This palliative seems to have its effect, judging from the above. They also give him credit for humanity, in saving the lives of many, previous to the capture of Santa Anna.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE, AUG. 22.

Letters were received in this city on Saturday last from Nacogdoches, in Texas, dated 16th July, from which we have collected the following intelligence:

Lieut. BONNELL, of the United States Infantry, had arrived at that place a few days before, to await the arrival of four companies U. S. Dragoons, who were then on their march from Fort Townson, in Arkansas, and who were to be encamped in that vicinity. Four wagon loads of stores for the supply of those troops arrived on the 15th, and three more on the 16th July, from the headquarters of General GAINES, who, with the main army, remained at Camp Sabine, east of the Sabine river, prepared to march into Texas at a moment's warning.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE PUBLIC ADVERTISER, AUG. 17.

FOR TEXAS.—We understand "that a large majority of the Jefferson Grays, a volunteer company raised in pursuance of the requisition of Gen. Gaines, have determined to cross the Sabine in the character of emigrants to Texas, if they cannot obtain leave to march to that river, under the flag of the United States. It is expected Lieutenant Hicks will command them; and as their uniforms have been made, and transportation will be provided, we trust no difficulty will be experienced in procuring the requisite aid to equip them for a residence in the new republic. It would be a pity were the young gentlemen to be disappointed. They "turned out for a fight," and they ought to have it. We learn the company will consist of about sixty mounted men—"as good as ever fluttered."

TERRIBLE AFFRAY.

The Steamer Carrollton arrived on Sunday last, from Viecksburg, brings intelligence of a deadly affray which took place there previous to leaving, between a planter of the name of Randolph and a Dr. Watts both citizens of the place.

It originated from an old grudge. Said to have existed between the parties for some time. It appears that D. met Mr. R. on the morning of the fourteenth inst. when he drew from his breast a pistol which he fired at Randolph but missing him, and perceiving that he was unarmed he ran up to him and inflicted several severe blows on his head with the butt end of the pistol. Some time after when Randolph had recovered from the blows inflicted on him, he armed himself with a brace of pistols, and meeting Watts at the Mansion house where they both boarded, followed him and fired as he entered his own room, when in the act of seating himself alongside his lady. The ball passed through his right arm; with the other he made an attempt to seize Randolph but failing. R. fired a second pistol at him, the ball of which lodged in his side. The doctor's brother, on being informed of the rencontre, seized a rifle and made to

wards Randolph's apartment, threatening to break open the door and take his life. The window happening to be open at the moment, R. fired from it with unerring aim, and shot W. through the heart.—Both Watts were placed on the same bed; dead and dying; a sight well calculated to check the uncontrolled and fiery passions of those around.

Randolph after the perpetration of the above, walked deliberately from the room into the street, amongst a crowd of spectators, with cocked pistols in each hand. No attempt was made to impede his progress, and he quietly proceeded to the ferry, which he crossed, seemingly under no apprehension of arrest.—N. O. Adv.

HEARTLESS VILLAINY.

The following remarkable instance of heartless villainy on the part of two men, and of persevering and successful pursuit on the part of a female, we copy from the Courier and Enquirer of yesterday.—

A respectable looking woman applied to the sitting magistrate for a warrant, under the following circumstances:

She stated that her name was Margaret Johnson, and that she had just arrived from Liverpool in the ship John Linton, for the purpose of recovering property to the amount of \$900 sterling, stolen from her at Manchester, by two persons by the name of Christopher Edgerton and Henry Quinn, (the former her brother in law,) during her absence in Ireland. On her return from that country to England she ascertained who had taken her goods, comprising plate, jewellery, and household furniture, and not wishing to subject her relative to a criminal process, she agreed to his overtures for their recovery. He with the assistance of his accomplice Quinn, however, managed to get on board the ship Marengo, with the property, and set sail for America 7 days before the John Linton. Fortune sometimes favors the injured, and the John Linton has now been in a week, whilst the other vessel is now only reported below. The magistrate granted the poor woman's warrant immediately, and sent Bowyer with it to serve on the parties. He arrested and got from them, the whole of the goods which were placed in the public store at Staten Island.

LINEN AND COTTON.

It is a common impression that linen is a more appropriate article than cotton; and accordingly most of those whose circumstances permit to consult their taste in this matter, exchange the latter for the former at this season. A little reflection will show that the impression is ill-founded and the practice unphilosophical. To those indeed, who wear flannel next the skin, the difference between cotton and linen for shirts is not material; for those who do not, the advantage both on the score of health and permanent comfort is in favor of the former. Linen is a more rapid conductor of heat than cotton; and for this reason, when first applied to the surface, it conveys the impression of coolness, for the same reason, it tends to lessen more quickly the difference of the temperature between the skin and the atmosphere.—Hence it is that cotton is warmer in winter; and on the contrary the air is warmer than the body, it must be the coolest article of the two.

In India, the hottest country inhabited by civilized man, and where the thermometer reaches 110 degrees of Fahrenheit in the shade, cotton is worn exclusively. It is there considered cooler in hot weather, and much safer as a protective against deleterious influence of sudden changes. Another circumstance in favor of cotton is its porosity, in virtue of which it absorbs the moisture of the skin when perspiring, and therefore feels comparatively dry, while the linen allows a rapid evaporation to go on from the cutaneous surface, and renders the wearer more liable to the diseases incident to cold and dampness. It is a habit and fashion much more than any real superiority which causes linen to be so generally preferred as an article of dress. Were it a cheap native product and cotton an expensive luxury, there can be no doubt that the latter would be the favorable material.

A Dose.—A fine open hearted man, who was on a committee to raise money for the celebration of a great holiday, asked a physician if he would not give something for the common cause. The Doctor answered, "Oh, most certainly; with all my heart."

The committee man, overjoyed at the offer, eagerly asked the Doctor the amount of his intended donation: "Oh, replied he, "I shall not stand about the amount; I will give you all a good dose of jalap the day after the spree."

Pawtucket Chronicle.